

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of claims;

Listing of Claims

1. (previously presented) A metal gasket having a hole to be sealed, comprising:

a first metal base plate having one first main bead projecting outwardly therefrom around the hole, a first outer sub-bead section smaller than the first main bead and provided outside the first main bead, and a first inner sub-bead section smaller than the first main bead and provided inside the first main bead so that the one first main bead is only provided between the first outer and inner sub-bead sections, said first outer and inner sub-bead sections projecting in a same direction as the first main bead, and

a second metal base plate laminated with the first metal base plate and having one second main bead projecting outwardly therefrom around the hole in a direction opposite to the one first main bead, a second outer sub-bead section smaller than the second main bead and provided outside the second main bead, and a second inner sub-bead section smaller than the second main bead and provided inside the second main bead so that the one second main bead is only provided between the second outer and inner sub-bead sections, said second outer and inner sub-bead sections abutting at least partly against the first outer and inner sub-bead sections respectively in the radial direction for sealing,

wherein said first and second main beads are arranged to project in directions opposite to each other without contact when the first and second metal base plates are assembled.

2-13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) A metal gasket according to claim 1, wherein said second main bead has a size less than that of the first main bead so that when the gasket is compressed, the second outer and inner sub-bead sections restrict lateral movements of the first outer and inner sub-bead sections.

15-18. (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) A metal gasket according to claim 1, wherein each of said first and second outer and inner sub-bead sections has a trapezoidal shape.

20. (previously presented) A metal gasket according to claim 1, wherein said first and second metal base plates are different in thickness.

21-23. (canceled)